

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 5, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 19, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 552

Introduced by Assembly Member Firebaugh
(~~Coauthors: Assembly Members Diaz and Oropeza~~)
(*Coauthors: Assembly Members Diaz and Oropeza*)

February 21, 2001

An act to add and repeal Section 8705.5 of the Government Code, relating to foreign assistance, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 552, as amended, Firebaugh. Foreign assistance: Office of ~~California-Mexico~~ *California-Mexico* Affairs.

Existing law establishes the Office of California-Mexico Affairs to further and develop favorable economic, educational, and cultural relations with the State of Baja California, the State of Baja California Sur, and other prescribed states and territories of the Republic of Mexico.

This bill would establish until January 1, 2006, within the office the California-Mexico International Development Volunteer Pilot Program to provide one-time matching grants to nonprofit community-based organizations to pay expenses directly related to volunteer programs that provide technical assistance, through professionally trained specialists, to local communities within Mexico from where immigrants to this state originate. The bill would provide

that the purpose of this technical assistance is to stimulate economic development and provide employment alternatives to immigration within these local communities. The bill would require the office to submit a specified report to the Legislature and the Governor on or before January 1, 2005.

This bill would appropriate \$149,000 from the General Fund to the Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency for purposes of this program.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 8705.5 is added to the Government
2 Code, to read:

3 8705.5. (a) The California-Mexico International
4 Development Volunteer Pilot Program is hereby established in the
5 office to provide one-time, matching grants to community-based
6 organizations that are exempt from the payment of income taxes
7 pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to pay
8 expenses directly related to funding volunteer programs that
9 provide technical assistance, through professionally trained
10 specialists, to local communities in the United Mexican States
11 from where immigrants to this state originate. The purpose of this
12 technical assistance is to stimulate economic development within
13 these local communities and provide employment alternatives to
14 immigration.

15 (b) For purposes of this section, the office shall develop
16 regulations, application forms and procedures, and an analysis
17 mechanism for identifying local communities in Mexico from
18 where immigrants to this state originate and for assigning a priority
19 to those communities from where the most immigrants originate
20 for purposes of receiving technical assistance. The office may
21 consult and cooperate with immigration researchers affiliated with
22 the University of California for these purposes and for measuring
23 program outcomes.

24 (c) In order for a community-based organization to qualify for
25 a matching grant pursuant to this section, the organization shall, in
26 its application, do all of the following:

27 (1) Establish that it is based within this state.



(2) Provide a detailed proposal for participation through technical assistance in individual development projects in Mexico.

(3) Provide a detailed work plan that does all of the following:

(A) Establishes the purpose for volunteer work to be performed.

(B) States the length of the volunteer period.

(C) Sets goals and benchmarks for volunteer participation.

(D) Documents the appropriate credentials of individuals in the area of technical expertise being provided to local communities in Mexico.

(d) *Types of projects that qualify for funding pursuant to this section include, but are not limited to, all of the following:*

(1) *Providing financial advisors who would give ordinary people access to credit, including micro credit, at reasonable rates to help families purchase items such as homes, cars, and trucks, as well as goods and equipment that could help start up small businesses and generate income.*

(2) *Having economists or international trade experts, or both, available to advise regions on methods of generating products that are compatible with others within the same region, and on the marketing and advertising of the products as appropriate.*

(3) *Providing engineers, construction managers, and other technicians to regions that need to improve access to villages as a means to transport goods into and out of the regions. Small scale road, bridge, sewer, and water projects are examples of these types of projects.*

(e) The office shall report to the Legislature and the Governor on the program's activities, results, and accomplishments on or before January 1, 2005.

~~(e)~~

(f) Each volunteer who participates in, and receives funds from, this program shall serve a period of not less than four months and not more than one year.

~~(f)~~

(g) A community-based organization that receives a matching grant pursuant to this program may not expend more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in a calendar year on an individual volunteer who participates in the program.

~~(g)~~

1 (h) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,
2 2006, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
3 that is enacted before January 1, 2006, deletes or extends that date.
4 SEC. 2. The sum of one hundred forty-nine thousand dollars
5 (\$149,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the
6 Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency for the purposes of the
7 California-Mexico International Development Volunteer Pilot
8 Program established pursuant to this act.

